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BOOKS RECEIVED.

THE LAW OF RAILWAY BONDS AND MORTGAGES IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WITH ILLUSTRATIVE CASES FROM THE ENGLISH AND COLONIAL COURTS. By EDWARD LYMAN SHORT, of the New York Bar; General Solicitor of the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. Boston: Little, Brown & Company. 1897. \$6.50 net.

As stated in a very attractive preface, this volume is the outcome of studies made and authorities collected during the course of many years, in connection with the author's private practice, and gradually woven into its present form. There is reason to expect that a work thus prepared, and by a practitioner whose position as legal adviser of one of the greatest insurance companies of the world demands an intimate and practical acquaintance with corporate securities in every form, will exhibit only the most deliberately drawn conclusions, shaped from original sources. Nor is this expectation disappointed in the body of the work. It evinces throughout a careful, accurate and discriminating legal judgment. The authorities are full, and well digested. The author is not content merely to set down what the courts have declared to be the law of a particular case, but he brings to bear upon it his own conceptions, with the process of reasoning by which these are reached. The result is a philosophical treatise, and not a mere mass of case-law. The author's style is vigorous and agreeable, conspicuously lucid, and easily holding the attention and interest of the reader. The arrangement of the matter is most convenient for easy reference; the chapters being analytically subdivided, and the section-headings of each subdivision printed in bold-faced type, which readily catch the eye. The truth announced in the preface that "the chief value of the text-book to the practitioner lies in the fact that, when properly compiled, it will enable him to find any point in the law of his subject, which has either been decided, discussed or even referred to incidentally," has been borne in mind in the arrangement of the body of the text and in the preparation of the excellent index. The work is not confined to the substantive law of the subject, but deals fully with remedies, including jurisdiction of State and Federal courts, pleadings, the full law of receiverships, winding up, reorganization, and detailed procedure generally.

Mr. Short's work is a thorough, practical and comprehensive treatise on the important topic of railway and other corporate securities, and will no doubt become standard authority on this subject. The book should meet with a cordial reception from bench and bar.

SUMMARY OF TITLE TO PERSONAL PROPERTY, by CHARLES A. GRAVES, Professor of Common and Statute Law in Washington and Lee University.

This is a monograph of seventy-five pages, divided into three chapters and sixty-four sections. As its title imports, it is a "summary" of the law of the subject. The style is concise but clear, and the illustrations are abundant and apt. It contains the law in a nut-shell, fortified by well settled cases. While intended, primarily, for students, it is a very useful book to the practitioner, especially in Virginia and West Virginia. The treatment of the subject, however, is by no means local. The leading cases, English and American, are cited and commented